

CLAIMS

1. An implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) (10) including a system arranged for an autocapture mode of operation, the system comprising:

5 a pulse generator (12) for delivering pacing pulses to at least one chamber of a heart (1), a defibrillation unit (14) for delivering cardioversion or defibrillation shocks to at least one chamber of said heart (1), sensing
10 circuitry (16) for sensing heart activity, both intrinsic and resulting from capture following a delivered pacing pulse, and a control unit (18) for controlling the timing and energy of said pacing pulses and cardioversion and defibrillation shocks, respectively,

15 wherein the system has a first operating mode arranged for said autocapture mode of operation,

characterized in that the system has a second operating mode arranged for delivering pacing pulses according to predetermined pacing pulse settings,

20 wherein the control unit is arranged for switching the system from said first operating mode into said second operating mode following a delivery of a cardioversion or defibrillation shock.

25 2. The ICD as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control unit is arranged for switching the system back to said first operating mode following a predetermined time interval.

30 3. The ICD as claimed in claim 2, wherein said predetermined time interval is in the range of 1-15 minutes, preferably in the range of 5-10 minutes.

35 4. The ICD as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control unit is arranged for switching the system back to said first operating mode following an extendable time interval,

wherein the sensing circuitry is arranged for measuring, when sensing capture or intrinsic heart activity following a shock, signal characteristics of a sensed heart activity signal, and

- 5 wherein the control unit is arranged for extending said extendable time interval on the basis of said measured characteristics.

5. The ICD as claimed in claim 4, wherein said extendable time interval comprises a predetermined basic time interval, and wherein the sensing circuitry is arranged for measuring said signal characteristics prior to the expiry of said basic time interval, thereby enabling the control unit to extend said extendable time interval prior to the expiry of said basic time interval with an extension time interval.

6. The ICD as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sensing circuitry and control unit are arranged for measuring said signal characteristics and extending said extendable time interval with a further extension time interval prior to the expiry of each extension time interval.

7. The ICD as claimed in claim 5 or 6, wherein said extension time interval is in the range of 5-15 minutes, preferably 10 minutes.

8. The ICD as claimed in any one of claims 5-7, wherein said basic time interval is in the range of 1-15 minutes, preferably in the range of 5-10 minutes.

9. The ICD as claimed in any one of claims 4-8, wherein said characteristics comprise the amplitude of the heart activity signal.

10. The ICD as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said pulse generator is arranged for delivering pacing pulses to a ventricle of the heart.

5 11. The ICD as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said pulse generator is arranged for delivering pacing pulses to an atrium of the heart.

10 12. The ICD as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said defibrillation unit is arranged for delivering cardioversion and/or defibrillation shocks to a ventricle of the heart.

15 13. The ICD as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said defibrillation unit is arranged for delivering cardioversion and/or defibrillation shocks to an atrium of the heart.